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TO: ATTORNEY GENERAL - JOHN ASHCROFT

FAX 1-202-307-1454

SUBJECT: Microsoft Settlement

FROM: WILLIAM F STEVENS

FAX 334-826-3046

January 13, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am very happy about the settlement that has been reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. The required changes in Microsoft's business practices will restore fair competition and prevent future antitrust violations. But most importantly, the settlement will allow the IT industry to concentrate on business now.

The agreement mandates a number of specific changes. For example, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. Microsoft has also agreed to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers on identical terms and conditions, including price. In addition, Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs that compete with programs included within Windows.

This settlement is in the best interest of the public and the economy. The recession has had a horrible effect on state budgets and the federal budget, and it is important that the technology sector be allowed to concentrate on business as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



William Stevens  
1645 Mayfair Court  
Auburn, Alabama 36830

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